

His feelings, moreover, at any period after the oral-sucking phase, are highly ambivalent towards both his parents.

Aggressive feelings and hate are stimulated by all the inevitable frustrations of his wishes, and these in their turn give rise to phantasies of retribution from his parents. This marked ambivalence of feeling, and a strongly sadistic tinge to sexuality itself, characterise all the early phases of libidinal development after the sucking phase. Only when and in so far as genital primacy is established does the sadistic element tend to lessen in intensity. Genital primacy is, however, not established to any extent until four or five years of age, and not finally stabilised, even in children who show the most satisfactory development, until after adolescence. All through the years of childhood, including the latency period, the child has to struggle in the deeper levels of his mind with anxieties

arising from his own sadistic impulses towards those whom he loves, as well as with those projected phantasies of a sadistic sexual life in his parents, which themselves give rise to further terrors. Most of this struggle goes on far below the level of conscious understanding, and is to a considerable extent out of touch with real experience, although, of course, the outcome of the struggle is undoubtedly affected by the child's real experience and his growing knowledge of his real parents. It is, however, precisely with regard to their sexual life that he gains least knowledge of reality and has least chance of working over his phantasies by real experience.

(4) In considering the origins of later social development in the child's relation to his parents, we have to hold in mind not only his real external relations with the parents as he knows them in the later phases of his own development, and as they

are in their real behaviour, but even more, his relations to them in terms of intra-psychical conflict. After his first year the child is always attempting to deal with internal tension between his own instinctual trends, whether libidinal or aggressive, on the one hand, and the *introjected* parents, his super-ego, on the other. His actual relation with his real parents in the second or third year onwards is largely affected by this internal situation, itself built upon the earliest and most primitive wishes and phantasies. We have noted in broad outline the various psychological mechanisms by which the anxieties arising from this intra-psychical conflict are allayed ; and we have seen these mechanisms